

Message Text

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ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-10 AGRE-00 AID-05
CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-06 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 ERDA-07 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02
INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
NSF-02 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15
SAL-01 /142 W

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R 011702Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8863
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS DUBLIN 0461

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, EEC, EI
SUBJECT: FISHERIES: GOI POSTPONES UNILATERAL ACTION

REF. DUBLIN 363

1. IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOI HAS AGREED TO A REQUEST FROM THE COMMISSION IN BRUSSELS TO POSTPONE FOR TWO WEEKS THE UNILATERAL FISHERIES CONSERVATION MEASURES WHICH WERE DUE TO COME INTO FORCE MARCH 1. IRISH NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THAT, IN THE MEANTIME, THE COMMISSION HAS PROMISED TO PRODUCE NEW PROPOSALS TO
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RESOLVE THE IMPASSE. THIS DECISION REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED A ONE-HOUR MEETING FEBRUARY 28 BETWEEN IRISH MINISTER FOR FISHERIES PADDY DONEGAN AND COMMISSIONER GUNDELACH.

2. THE REACTION OF THE IRISH FISHERMAN'S ORGANIZATION (IFO) WAS IMMEDIATE AND ANGRY. IFO SECRETARY FRANK DOYLE ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF POSTPONING ITS PLEDGE "TO GO IT ALONE" ON FISHERIES

DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM EEC PARTNERS. DONEGAN, HOWEVER, WAS EQUALLY STRONG IN DENYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD BUCKLED IN THE FACE OF PRESSURE. DONEGAN SAID THAT THE IRISH CABINET HAD GIVEN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO GUNDELACH'S REQUEST FOR SPECIAL CONSULTATION AND THAT HE HAD BEEN EMPOWERED TO HOLD IN ABEYANCE IRELAND'S UNILATERAL ACTION IF HE FELT THERE WAS PROMISE OF A SETTLEMENT. DONEGAN ADDED THAT GUNDELACH HAD PROPOSED NOTHING SPECIFIC, BUT HAD GIVEN AN INDICATION OF THE LINES ALONG WHICH A SOLUTION MIGHT BE REACHED.

3. PRESS COMMENTATORS NOTED THAT IRELAND FACED THE POSSIBILITY OF A COMMUNITY "BACKLASH" AND LOSS OF SUPPORT ON KEY ISSUES SUCH AS FARM PRICES IF IT IMPOSED THE UNILATERAL MEASURES IN THE FACE OF STRONG OPPOSITION. ONE PRESS COMMENTATOR SAID THE POSTPONEMENT HIGHLIGHTS IRELAND'S REPUTATION FOR BEING COMMUNITY-MINDED, AND OBSERVED THAT THE ACTION IS IN NO WAY DETRIMENTAL TO IRELAND'S INTERESTS. DESPITE THIS OBJECTIVE APPRAISAL, FISHERMAN'S INTERESTS WILL NOT BE EASILY PACIFIED AND THEY WILL UNDOUBTEDLY STEP UP PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT TO PROTECT WHAT THEY REGARD THEIR LEGITIMATE INTERESTS. CURLEY

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